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ABSTRACT

This factsheet provides information about education and training in Britain for people from nonWhite ethnic groups. In spring 1997, 545,000 men and women of working age from nonWhite ethnic groups in Britain were receiving education and training in schools, colleges, and universities and through other courses, compared with an average of 15% of the working age population as a whole. The proportions of young people in full-time education have grown steadily across all ethnic groups since 1986, and the share of young people from ethnic minority groups is still 14% to 15% greater than that of their White counterparts. In spring 1997, 81% of ethnic minority members aged 16 to 19 were receiving education and training, while about 67% of comparable White young people were in education and training. Although people from ethnic minority groups are more likely to be studying or training than their White counterparts, they are less likely to have formal qualifications. About 13% of students in higher education are from ethnic minority groups, and about 9% of the graduates from higher education were from ethnic minorities. Only 2.5% of working teachers and other education professionals are from ethnic minority groups. Additional information is given about the position of minorities in compulsory and higher education, religious schools, and government supported education. (Contains 14 references, 15 figures, and 2 tables.) (SLD)

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ED 429 137

Education and Training in Britain

Commission For Racial Equality

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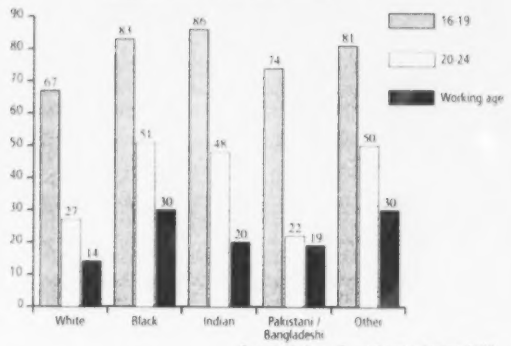
EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN BRITAIN

In Spring 1997, 545,000, (25%) men and women of working age from 'non-white' ethnic groups in Britain were receiving education and training in schools, colleges, and universities, and through other courses, compared with an average of 15% of the working age population as a whole. The proportions of young people in full-time education have grown steadily across all ethnic groups since 1986. However, the share of young people from ethnic minority groups in full-time education was still 14-15% greater than that of their White counterparts.

▶ In Spring 1997, among ethnic minority groups, 81% of 16-19 year-olds were receiving education and training (71% full-time), and 42% of 20-24 year-olds (29% full-time). Among White people, 67% of 16-19 year-olds and 27% of 20-24 year-olds were in education and training (27% and 17% respectively studying full-time). Figure 1 gives the proportions for each ethnic group.

Figure 1. People receiving education and training in Britain, by ethnic group and age, Spring 1997 (% of group)



Source: Labour Force Survey, Spring 1997

QUALIFICATIONS

▶ Although people from ethnic minority groups are more likely to be studying or training than their White counterparts, they are less likely to have formal qualifications. In Spring 1997, more than one in five people of working age among Britain's ethnic minorities had no qualifications compared with around 18% of White people. Pakistanis and Bangladeshis were least likely to have qualifications (47%), even in the 16-24 year age group, where 24% had no qualifications compared with 10% of White people and 12% of Indians (see Table 1). In the 16-19 year age group, Black people were most likely (29%) to have no qualifications, and Indians (18%) and Pakistanis and Bangladeshis taken together least likely (20%); 22% of White 16-19 year-olds had no formal qualifications.

▶ Analysis based on the 1991 census shows that Irish-born women are more likely (16%) to have Indian men of working age were most likely to have degrees – 23% compared with 14% of White men.

25% of men and women from ethnic minority groups in Britain study further after school compared with an overall average of 15%

higher qualifications – above A-levels – than the average for the population as a whole (11%). The figure for Irish-born men is slightly lower than the overall average – 13% compared with 16%. In the 15-29 year age group, however, 32% of Irish-born men and 34% of Irish-born women had

NOTE: This factsheet follows the ethnic categories used in the 1991 census. The term 'ethnic minorities' is used to refer to people who did not tick the 'White' box when identifying their ethnic group. 'Non white' ethnic minorities make up 5.6% of Britain's population.

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Table 1. Highest qualification held among people of working age, by ethnic group and age, Spring 1997

	White	All ethnic minorities	Black	Indian	Pakistani & Bangladeshi	Other
25 – 59/64 years	%	%	%	%	%	%
Degrees	14	16	14	19	10	19
Higher below degree	9	7	11	7	2	8
A-level	23	12	15	11	7	11
GCSE grades A-C or equivalent	20	13	19	12	8	11
Other qualifications	15	29	25	30	26	36
No qualifications	20	23	17	20	47	15
16 – 24 years						
Degrees	7	6	*	9	*	8
Higher below degree	4	2	*	*	*	*
A-level	27	24	24	29	19	26
GCSE grades A-C or equivalent	37	34	37	38	30	30
Other qualifications	10	15	15	*	17	19
No qualifications	10	17	18	12	24	15

** Numbers less than 10,000; estimated percentages not reported.*
Source: *Labour Force Survey, Spring 1997*

Black Caribbean pupils were five times more likely to face permanent exclusion in 1995/6 than White pupils

higher qualifications, mainly first and higher degrees, compared with 20% of all men and 18% of all women. However, during 1989 – 1991, the proportion of Irish-born men with no recorded qualifications (25%) was well above the average for White people born in the UK (16%).

▶ Black 16-year-olds are more likely to take a vocational rather than an academic route towards acquiring qualifications. As Figure 2 shows, 40% of Black 16 year-olds in full-time education in England and Wales were pursuing only vocational qualifications in 1996, 62% of them at Further Education (FE) colleges and 20% at state schools. Among 16-year-olds from other groups, 41% of Asians and 46% of people from the 'Other' group were pursuing academic qualifications. Asians were also more likely to be studying at FE colleges (48%) than at state schools (32%). Only 36% of White 16-year-olds studied at FE colleges.

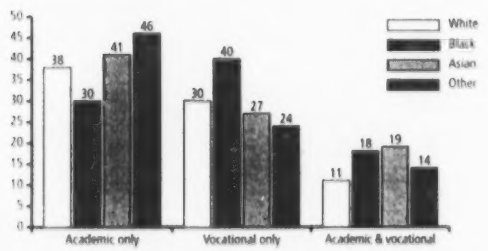
COMPULSORY SCHOOLING

▶ In 1995/6, there were 6,338,628 people aged between five and 15 years who were students in primary, secondary and special schools in England. Of these, 704,175 (11%) were from ethnic minority groups.

GCSE grades

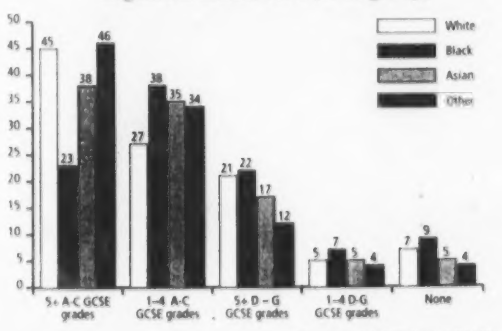
▶ The proportion of young people from ethnic minority groups achieving five or more GCSE higher (A-C) grades has increased since 1994. However, significant differences between ethnic groups still remain. In 1996, 38% of Asians and 23% of young Black people achieved this standard compared to 45% of White pupils (see Figure 3). In Birmingham LEA (which has the largest *number* of ethnic minority pupils in England), although the overall proportion of pupils obtaining A-C grades increased from 18% in 1988 to 30% in 1994, the gap between Black Caribbean pupils (the lowest achieving group) and White pupils (the highest achievers) grew by three percentage points between 1992 and 1994. Just over one in three White pupils achieved at least five higher grades, but only one in seven Black Caribbean pupils scored as well. Similarly, in Brent LEA, which has the

Figure 2. Type of qualifications pursued by 16 year-olds, by ethnic group, England and Wales, 1996 (% of group)



Source: Youth Cohort Study, DfEE, 1997

Figure 3. Achievements in Year 11, by ethnic group, England & Wales, 1996 (% of group)



Source: Youth Cohort Study, DfEE 1997

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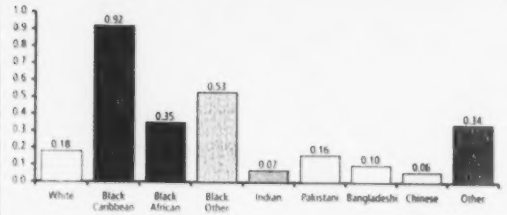
Figure 4. Permanent exclusion rates among 5-15 year-olds in England, 1995/6, by ethnic group (% of group)



Source: DfEE, 1997

highest *proportion* of ethnic minority pupils in England, there was an increase of 1.50 points in the gap between the higher achieving Asian group and Black Caribbean pupils.

▶ Variations in achievement between ethnic groups are most marked in individual subjects. In a large English LEA, the 1994 GCSE results showed 50% of Black African pupils obtaining A-C grades in English, Maths and Double Science. However, only 7% of Black Caribbean pupils reached this standard in Maths, and 9% in Double Science; a higher percentage (28%) achieved these grades in English, a subject in which pupils from the Black Other group fared least well – only 14% obtained A–C grades.

▶ In Tower Hamlets, which is home to almost a quarter of all Bangladeshi children between 5 and 15 years in Great Britain, 30% of Bangladeshi girls and 25% of Bangladeshi boys achieved five A-C GCSE grades in 1997, compared with 21% of White girls and 18% of White boys. Among Bangladeshi children who were fully fluent in English, 58% achieved five A-C GCSE grades.

EXCLUSIONS

▶ Permanent exclusions in England rose by 13% in 1995/6 across all ethnic groups. However, as Table 2 shows, there were significant variations between ethnic groups, with pupils from the Other group, the Black Other group and the Black African group experiencing the highest percentage increases. Ethnic minority pupils, who made up 11% of all 5-15 year-olds in compulsory schooling, accounted for 17% of all permanent exclusions. Black children, forming 3% of all 5-15 year-olds in 1995/6, but 11% of all permanently excluded pupils, were disproportionately affected by exclusion. As Figure 4 shows, Black Caribbean pupils were five times more likely to face permanent exclusion in 1995/6 than White pupils. Eight out of ten permanent exclusions involved boys, and a similar proportion involved pupils aged between 12 and 15 years.

Table 2. Increase in permanent exclusions in England, by ethnic group, 1994/5 - 1995/6

	1994/95*	1995/96**	Increase	
	No.	No.	No.	%
White	8765	10096	1331	15
Black Caribbean	768	867	99	13
Black African	148	216	68	46
Black Other	182	241	59	32
Indian	98	109	11	11
Pakistani	208	255	47	23
Bangladeshi	46	58	12	26
Chinese	11	14	3	27
Other	241	366	125	52

* *Excludes 181 pupils whose ethnic origins were not not known. The figures were based on the 1991 census.*

** *Excludes 10 pupils whose ethnic origins were not known. The figures were based on information from schools.*

Source: DfEE, 1996 and 1997

HIGHER EDUCATION

▶ Of the 516,700 UK students entering higher education in 1996/7 whose ethnicity was known, 66,100 (13%) were from ethnic minority groups, which make up around 6% of the total population of Great Britain.

UK residence

▶ 45% of UK home students from ethnic minority groups came from Greater London compared with 14% of all home students.

Sex

▶ In 1994/5, 52% of ethnic minority students were men compared with 49% from White groups. However, nearly two-thirds (63%) of all Black Caribbeans in further and higher education were women; among Bangladeshis and Pakistanis, only about a third were women.

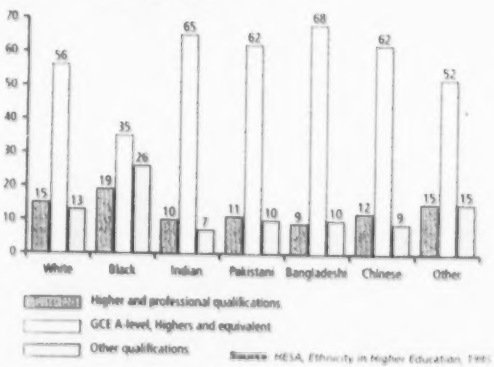
Age

▶ Black students were much more likely than other groups to go into higher education as mature students. In 1994/5, only 14% of Black first year home students were under 19 years compared with 49% of Indian and 39% of White students – conversely, 56% of Black students were aged 26 and over, compared with only 15% of Indian and 36% of White home students.

Admission rates

▶ Success rates for applications to degree and HND courses have increased for all ethnic minority groups

Figure 5. First year UK home students' qualifications on entry, by ethnic group, 1994/5 (% of group)



Source: HESA, Ethnicity in Higher Education, 1997

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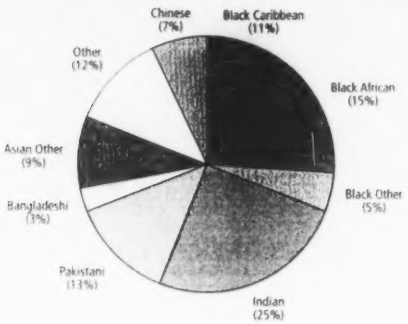
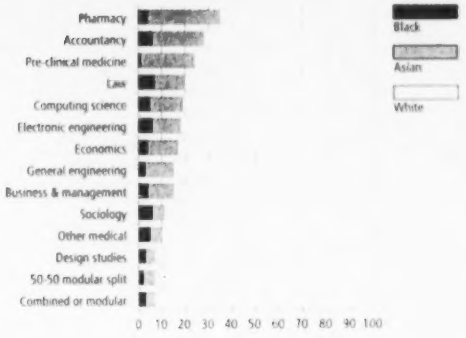
Figure 6. Ethnic minority UK home students entering universities and colleges in 1996/7



Source: HESA, 1997

Figure 7. Preferred first degree subjects among UK home students, by ethnic group, 1994/5



Source: HESA, Ethnicity in Higher Education, 1995

since 1994, most markedly among Pakistani women, whose success rate almost doubled from 46% in 1994 to 89% in 1996. In 1996, 18% of all acceptances to degree courses, and 27% of acceptances to HND courses were from ethnic minority groups.

Qualifications on entry

▶ Home students from Black groups were least likely (35%) to have A-levels, Highers, or their equivalents on entry to a higher education institution compared with other ethnic groups (see Figure 5). They were also most likely (26%) to have other qualifications and higher and professional qualifications (19%). Nearly two-thirds of Asian home students had A-levels, Highers or their equivalents on entry, compared with 56% of White home students.

Subjects taken

▶ At first degree level (see Figure 7), the percentage of home students from ethnic minority groups was highest for pharmacy (37%), dentistry (35%), accountancy (30%), law (23%), and computing (22%). The greatest *numbers* of ethnic minority students, however, were in business and management (6,782), electronic engineering (6,265) and computing (5,105); 7,096 (9%) ethnic minority students were doing combined degrees.

Choice of institution

▶ At the end of 1996, more than a fifth of all UK home students in higher education were not studying at universities: about half were doing higher education (HE) courses at FE colleges, mainly towards HNCs or HNDs, while the rest were at HE colleges, mostly pursuing degrees. Of those doing HE courses at FE colleges, 18% were from ethnic minority groups, compared with only 5% at HE colleges.

STUDENTS IN EMPLOYMENT

▶ In Spring 1997, 44% of all 16-24 year-old full-time students in Britain were also in paid work or looking for paid work. White students were most likely (45%) to be in this situation, followed by Black students (40%), students from the Pakistani and Bangladeshi groups combined (32%), students from the Other group (30%) and Indian students (23%).

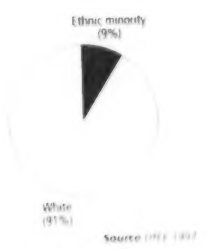
GRADUATES

▶ 37,200 (9%) of the 417,300 UK domiciled graduates in 1995/6 were from ethnic minority groups (see Figure 8); 39% of them got firsts and upper second degrees compared with 65% of White graduates. The results are significant, because similar proportions of first-year students from White and ethnic minority groups, 70% and 73% respectively, had two or more A-levels on entry, with similar average A-level scores (17.4 and 17.5 points).

▶ A study of the progress

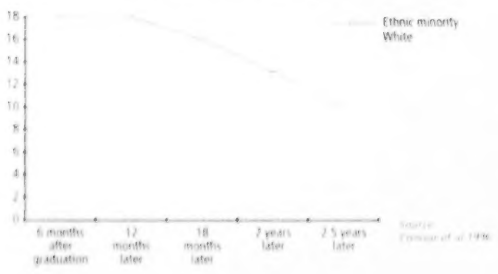
9% of all UK-domiciled graduates in 1996 were from ethnic minority groups

Figure 8. 1995/6 UK- domiciled graduates



Source: HESA, 1997

Figure 9. 1993 graduates who went on to study further, by ethnic group (% of group)



Source: Connor et al 1996

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Figure 10. Unemployment rates in the working age population, by highest qualification held and ethnic group, Spring 1997

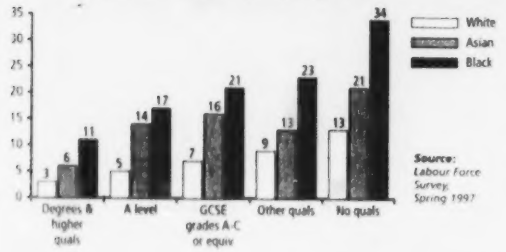
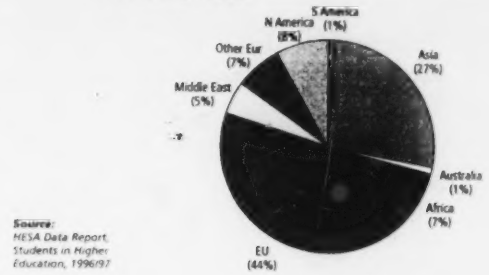


Figure 11. Overseas students in the UK, by region of world, 1996/7



made by UK domiciled graduates from the class of 1993 for two and a half years after obtaining their first degrees showed that ethnic minority graduates were more likely than White graduates to opt for further study during the first year and a half after graduation (Figure 9).

▶ Figure 10 shows the importance of qualifications in obtaining employment. Among all ethnic groups, unemployment rates were highest in Spring 1997 among those who had no formal qualifications and lowest among those with degrees or other higher qualifications. The Figure also shows that people from ethnic minority groups were more likely to experience unemployment than White people, however well qualified they were: 11% of Black people with degrees and 6% of Asians with degrees were unemployed, compared with only 3% of White degree holders. Among those with no qualifications, 34% of Black people were unemployed, compared with 13% of White people.

OVERSEAS STUDENTS

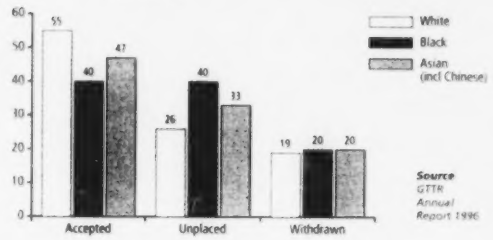
▶ 198,400 (12%) students registered at higher education institutions in the UK in 1996/7 were from overseas, up 25% over the previous two years (see Figure 10). Overseas students made up 34% of the 138,200 full-time postgraduate students in the UK.

▶ In 1997, 15,000 – 18,000 foreign children attended boarding schools in the UK; the total boarding school population in England and Wales was about 110,000.

EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS

▶ At the 1991 census, only 2.5% of working teachers and other educational professionals were from ethnic minority groups. Meanwhile, at 7%, ethnic minority groups are substantially overrepresented among unemployed educational professionals.

Figure 12. Outcomes of applications to Postgraduate Certificate in Education, by ethnic group, 1996 (%)



▶ Acceptance rates for Postgraduate Certificate of Education courses fell across all ethnic groups, from 57% in 1989 to 54% in 1996. Black applicants were least likely to be accepted (40% compared with 55% for White applicants), and most likely to be unplaced (40% compared with 26% of White applicants (see Figure 12).

GOVERNORS

▶ Only 3% of governors at FE colleges and 2% of governors at sixth form colleges were from ethnic minority groups, according to a 1994 survey of 240 colleges by the Further Education Development Agency.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS

▶ In 1995, a survey by the Further Education Development Agency found that just under a

Figure 13. Government supported training, by ethnic group, 1995/6

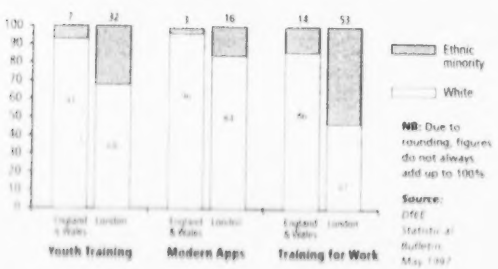
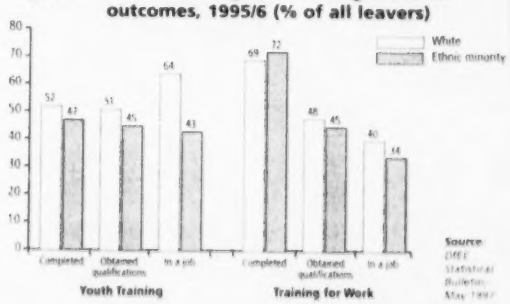

Ethnic minority
White
NB: Due to rounding, figures do not always add up to 100%
Source: DfEE Statistical Bulletin May 1997
Youth Training
Modern Apps
Training for Work

Figure 14. Youth Training and Training for Work outcomes, 1995/6 (% of all leavers)



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third of all state schools were voluntary-maintained denominational schools, mainly Church of England and Roman Catholic. The only religious schools run by ethnic minority faiths and funded by the state were 22 Jewish schools in England and Wales. In 1998, 7,000 Christian, 25 Jewish schools and two Muslim schools receive state funding. There are currently 58 independent Muslim schools in Britain, up from 15 in the late 1980s.

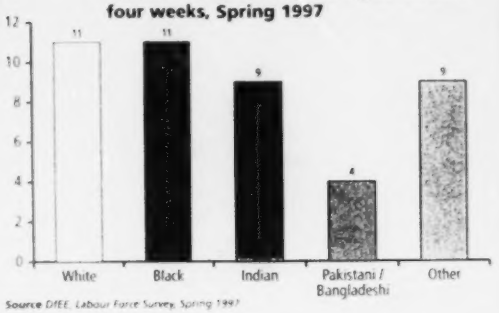
GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED TRAINING

▶ The proportions of 16-year-olds in government-supported training have fallen steadily across all ethnic groups, from around 25% in 1986 to around 9% in 1994. Only 4% of 16 year-olds from ethnic minority groups were in government training schemes in 1994, compared with 13% of White 16 year-olds.

Youth Training

▶ During the year ending December 1996, approximately 262,000 young people aged between 16 and 25 years were pursuing vocational qualifications through Youth Training programmes in England and Wales; around 7% of them were from ethnic minority groups. In London, ethnic minority young people made up nearly one-third of all participants (see Figure 13). Young people from ethnic minority groups were less likely than their White counterparts (41%) to be on programmes with: employed status, with Bangladeshis being least likely (15%) and Indians (36%) most likely. As Figure 14 shows, White participants were more likely than ethnic minority participants to complete their programmes, obtain qualifications and find jobs.

Figure 15. People of working age who received job-related education or training in the last four weeks, Spring 1997



Source DfEE, Labour Force Survey, Spring 1997

Modern Apprenticeships

▶ Modern Apprenticeships (MA) are also designed for this age group, but are aimed at higher (NVQ 3) qualifications, which are integral to the programme. At the end of December 1996, ethnic minority participants made up 3% of all MA starts in England and Wales, and 16% in London. They were most likely to be on schemes in hotels and catering (8%), childcare (7%), retailing (6%) and business administration (5%), and least likely to be in traditional apprenticeship areas such as the motor industry (3%), engineering (2%) and construction (2%).

Training for Work

▶ On Training for Work, whose aim is to get the adult long-term unemployed back in work, people from ethnic minority groups made up around 12-13% of the 224,700 participants in England and Wales in 1995/6; 6% were from Black groups, 4% from Asian groups and 3% from Other ethnic minority groups. In London, over half the participants were from ethnic minority groups. Ethnic minority participants were more likely than White participants to complete the programme, but less likely to obtain qualifications or find jobs afterwards (see Figure 15).

Job-related training

▶ As Figure 16 shows, White employees were twice as likely to have received job-related education or training in the four weeks prior to the Labour Force Survey interview in Spring 1997 than ethnic minority employees. Among employees of working age , those from the Pakistani/Bangladeshi group were least likely (4%) to have received such opportunities, compared with 11% each of White and Black employees.

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COMMISSION FOR RACIAL EQUALITY

Elliot House
10-12 Allington Street
London SW1E 5EH

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